AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 1, line 3:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 3, line 11:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In ~~an~~ a further aspect of the invention, an inlet suction conduit assembly is provided which includes adjustment means, such that the effective length of the conduit assembly can be varied in use, in a controlled manner.

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 8, line 32:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 9, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

Figure 5 is ~~an~~ a detailed view of a mixing vessel according to a further aspect of the invention;

Figure 6a is a partial cross section of the lid/seal arrangement for the mixing vessel of Figure 5, and Figure 6b is a plan view on arrow 6b ~~B~~ of Figure 6a ;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 7a is a plan view of the lid housing for the mixing vessel, and Figure 7b is a sectional view on line 7b-7b ~~A-A~~ of Figure 7a showing the inlet screen;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~Figures~~ Figure 10a depicts a modification to a standard ball valve for the suction pipe 160, and Figure 10b is a sectional view of Figure 10a along line 10b-10b ~~A-A~~;

Please insert the following heading as a new paragraph before the paragraph starting at page 10, line 18:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 32 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Similarly, a sealing skirt 9 is provided on the outer surface 13 of the distal end 8 of the first pipe section 3 ~~2~~.

The sealing skirt 9 is of substantially frusto-conical shape and forms a substantial seal with the outer surface 11 of the second pipe section 4. The distal end 7 and the distal end 8 are flared and tapered respectively to ensure sealing contact of the skirts with the respective surfaces.

Please replace the four paragraphs beginning at page 17, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

As can be seen in Figures 8a to 8h, there are two identical securing latching assemblies 217 for the lid assembly 210 for the mixing vessel 140. When the mixing vessel 140 is pressurised, opening is prevented by the internal pressure acting through over-centre links, lever 218 and handle extension 219, and a cam, part of shaft 220, arrangement working through a small lever, part of shaft 220 shown ~~in~~ by Section 8f-8f ~~E-E~~ (Figure 8f).

The travel of this lever is controlled by the flat bar, part of shaft 220, shown on ~~D-D~~ 8h-8h (Figure 8h) and two roll pins 221. The shaft 220 is held in the closed position by a torsion spring 222. Additional resistance to rotation is introduced by valve 223 shown in Figure 9. This is held closed by the pressure in the vessel 140 plus the spring load of item 220 required to prevent the valve 223 being opened by a vacuum while the vessel 140 is filling.

Adjustment of the valve 223 is by means of a screw 224 prevented from loosening by a self-locking helical insert 225. Valves must be left open before starting the engine 110 to prevent overload of the compressor 120. The engine 110 cannot be started until both latch levers 218 have secured the lid 210. Up to this point the limit switch 226 on Section 8f-8f ~~E-E~~ de-energises the solenoid shut-down valve on the fuel pump. The limit switch 226 under the lid 210 shown on Section 8e-8e ~~F-F~~ (Figure 8e) also activates the solenoid shut- down valve.

To prevent accidental shut-down, the pressure in the mixing vessel 140 must be released by means of a gate valve (not shown) before it is possible to operate the small lever, part of shaft 220, in turn operating the limit switch 226 and venting any residual pressure through branch 227, part of the pressure vessel 140 and release valve 223. The main lever 218 cannot be rotated until the cam, part of shaft 220, on Section 8g-8g ~~C-C~~ (Figure 8g) is rotated by means of the small lever, part of shaft 220, shown on Section 8f-8f ~~E-E~~ (Figure 8f).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 11 illustrates the valve assembly provided in the discharge hose 210. It has been found advantageous to inject air into the flow discharged from the mixing vessel 140 in order to

achieve discharge to the required distance and elevation from the available pressure. ~~The~~ There is provided a duckbill chopper valve ~~230~~ 239 (so called because it chops up what would otherwise be a solid column of concrete mix into alternating slugs of air and mix) through which air is admitted. The valve element 231 is formed from reinforced rubber. A branch is provided in the housing 232 for water cleaning if necessary.

Please replace the two paragraphs beginning at page 20, line 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figures 13 and 14 illustrated ~~an~~ a suction conduit assembly according to a further embodiment of the invention. In this embodiment, the suction conduit 260 is in the form of an articulated arm assembly. Other than set out below, the functioning of the suction conduit is the same as hereinbefore described.

The articulated suction inlet pipe 260 is part balanced by gas springs 262. A spring clip 264 locates in grooves in hose 266 extension tube carrying a seal to prevent loss of vacuum. The suction pipe is articulated at the centre about a horizontal axis, in gimbal arrangement. The mean weight of the pipe and contents is balanced by gas springs. The end of the suction pipe ~~carried~~ carries a vibrator 268.